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SEAT WITH SEAT SENSOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a seat with a sheet-like sensor which detects whether an occupant is seated in the seat.

DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

A sensor for preventing malfunction of a passenger air bag is known, which is provided on the upper surface of a vehicle seat cushion. FIGS. 5 and 6 are sectional views showing conventional examples each of which comprises a pad 1' and a sensor 2' bonded on the pad 1'. For eliminating bad touch due to the presence of the sensor, a slab 3 of about 5 mm in thickness is bonded to cover the sensor 2' as shown in FIG. 5 or a frame laminate 4 of 5 mm in thickness is provided as shown in FIG. 6.

Such a conventional seat in which the sensor 2' is bonded and the slab 3 or the frame laminate 4 is provided to cover the sensor 2' has disadvantages in that many laminating steps are required and cost is increased due to the laminating.

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to solve the above disadvantages and to provide a seat with a seat sensor which allows easy manufacture and substantially completely eliminates the bad touch due to the presence of the sensor.

A seat with a seat sensor of the present invention comprises a soft pad and a pressure sensitive sheet-like sensor for detecting a human body seated on the pad, wherein the sensor is disposed inside the pad.

Since the sensor is disposed inside the pad, the aforementioned seat with the seat sensor can substantially completely eliminate bad touch due to the presence of the sensor and also eliminate the necessity of providing a slab and a laminate for covering the sensor, thereby allowing easy manufacture and reducing the manufacturing cost.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the pad is provided with a slit for the sensor formed from a side (any one of front, rear, right, and left sides) toward the center of the pad and the sensor is inserted into the slit.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the pad is provided with a cavity formed upward from the bottom of the pad, a soft member is inserted into the cavity, and the sensor is disposed between the top surface of the soft member and the ceiling of the cavity. In this case, the cavity may be formed in such a manner that the lower end thereof is narrower, thereby preventing the soft member from coming off.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1a, 1b and 1c are sectional views showing a seat with a seat sensor according to an embodiment:

FIGS. 2a and 2b are sectional views each showing a seat with a seat sensor according to another embodiment:

FIGS. 3a and 3b are sectional views showing a seat with a seat sensor according to further different embodiment:

FIG. 4 is a structural view of a seat with a seat sensor according to still further different embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view showing a conventional example:

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FIG. 6 is a sectional view showing another conventional example:

FIG. 7 is a plane view of a seat with a seat sensor according to another embodiment; and

FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken along the line VIII—VIII of FIG. 7.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the attached drawings.

FIGS. 1a, 1b and 1c are sectional views showing a seat with a seat sensor according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 1a is a sectional view taken in the back-and-forth direction, FIG. 1b is a sectional view taken along the line 1b—1b of FIG. 1a, and FIG. 1c is an exploded structural view.

In this embodiment, a pad 1 is provided with a cavity 5 which is formed in the bottom to extend upward and in which a sensor 2 is attached to the ceiling thereof. Filled in the cavity 5 is a slab 6 made of the same soft material as the pad 1 (molded soft polyurethane foam may be used). The sensor 2 may be bonded onto the ceiling of the cavity 5 with an adhesive agent or adhesive tape. Alternatively, the sensor may be bonded on the top of the slab 6. As shown in FIG. 1c, it is preferable that the sensor 2 is previously bonded to the ceiling of the cavity 5 and a cable 2a connected with the sensor 2 is extended to the rear end of the pad 1 in such a manner that a terminal 2b disposed at an end of the cable projects from the rear end of the pad 1.

In this embodiment, the cavity 5 is formed in a taper configuration in such a manner that the lower portion is narrower so that the slab 6 inserted into the cavity 5 is held in the cavity 5 and is prevented from coming off.

FIGS. 2a and 2b show other embodiments of the present invention. In FIG. 2a, the cavity 5 is provided with a protrusion 5a around the opening thereof so that the lower periphery of the slab 6 is engaged with the protrusion 5a, thereby preventing the slab 6 from coming off. In FIG. 2b, a used slab 6 is slightly larger than the cavity 5 so that the slab 6 is pressed into the cavity 5 in the elastically compressed state, thereby preventing the slab 6 from coming off.

Though the sensor 2 has substantially the same size as the area of the ceiling of the cavity 5 in FIGS. 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a and 2b, it should be understood that the size of the sensor 2 may be smaller than the ceiling of the cavity 5 as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8.

FIG. 3a is a sectional view of a seat with a seat sensor according to a further different embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 3b is an exploded view thereof. In this embodiment, the pad 1 is provided with a slit 7 extending forward from the rear end, into which the sensor 2 is inserted. In this case, the slit 7 is provided in a substantially horizontal direction so that the sensor 2 never comes off the slit 7 even without closing the opening of the slit 7. However, a sheet-like slab may be pressed into the slit 7 to prevent the sensor 2 from coming off.

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 3a and 3b, the pad 1 may be entirely wrapped with a cover 8 as shown in FIG. 4.

According to the present invention, examples of material of the pad 1 include polyurethane foam and thermoplastics resin fibers (e.g., polypropylene, polyethylene, and polystyrene), just like the conventional example. Examples of material of the cover 8 shown in FIG. 4 include leather.